

The seal of the State of Hawaii is partially visible on the left side of the page. It features a circular design with a central shield, a sunburst at the top, and the year '1959' below it. The shield contains a figure holding a torch and a book. The outer ring of the seal contains the text 'OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR' at the top and 'STATE OF HAWAII' at the bottom. The seal is rendered in a light yellow color with a red dotted border.

LAND DIVISION

In an archipelagic state like Hawai‘i, the life-sustaining value of land has always been important. For more than a thousand years, the native Hawaiian civilization utilized the resources of the land and ocean, applying considerable stewardship to ensure sustained productivity. On steep mountain slopes terraced fields with carefully directed water channels brought forth crops for a growing population. At the seashore, man-made walls enclosed fishponds that provided an assured food source year-round.

The arrival in Hawai‘i by Captain James



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Cook in 1778 and subsequent immigration of foreigners brought enormous political, economic and social changes to Hawai'i. The native land tenure system where the king and chiefs held land for the benefit of all the people gave way to a system of private ownership of land.

Hawai'i was annexed by the United States in 1898, and the Republic of Hawai'i ceded to the U.S. approximately 1.75 million acres of the former government and crown lands of the Kingdom of Hawai'i. For 61 years during annexation, the trust nature of the government and crown lands was recognized by the U.S. With the passage of the Admission Act in 1959 that granted Hawai'i status as the 50th State of the Union, the public land trust was formalized.

Through this act, legal title for the "ceded" lands passed from the U.S. Government to the State of Hawai'i. The transfer also passed on to the State responsibilities to manage the "ceded lands" as a trust for the benefit of the people of Hawai'i. This public trust had five purposes: to support the public schools, to better the conditions of the native Hawaiian people, to develop farm and home ownership, to make pub-

lic improvements, and to provide lands for public use.

As the largest land owner, the State of Hawai'i owns approximately 1.4 million acres of lands throughout the archipelago in addition to all of the beaches and submerged lands in the state. The DLNR Land Division acts as landlord for more than 183,000 acres of total state lands. In sum, its mission is to preserve, protect and enhance the state-owned natural resources for future generations.

HIGHLIGHTS

In 1997, the reorganization to establish the new Land Division was formally effected. The Land Division incorporates the functions previously assigned to the Division of Land Management, the Office of Conservation and Environmental Affairs, and the Division of Water and Land Development. This reorganization consolidated responsibilities of planning, management and development of state lands and resources. The Division now operates in three major functional areas: land management, planning and technical services, and engineering.

In response to a critical report issued by the Office of the Legisla-

tive Auditor in 1996, the Land Division responded by instituting new procedures and processes to improve records management, file maintenance, and tracking and enforcement of lease requirements. Rental collection procedures were strengthened to more actively pursue delinquencies. As a result, the Land Division reduced rental delinquencies statewide from an average of 20.0% over the last four months of fiscal year 1996 (March - June 1996) to an average of 9.4% over the last four months of fiscal year 1998 (March - June 1998). These delinquencies have been dramatically reduced through consistent application of improved collection procedures, development of tracking systems to ensure timely follow-up, and monthly management monitoring of performance.

The loss of Hawai'i's sandy beaches is a major social, economic, and environmental problem. Studies show that nearly 25%, or 17 miles of sandy beaches on the island of O'ahu have been lost or severely narrowed over the past 70 years due to shoreline armoring. Maui has also experienced similar losses, and to a lesser degree, so have the islands of Kaua'i and Hawai'i. The Coastal Erosion Management Plan

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(COEMAP) was developed by the Land Division's Planning Branch, in partnership with the University of Hawai'i Department of Geology and Geophysics, to address coastal erosion issues statewide. Adopted by the Land Board in November 1997, the plan identifies technical and policy recommendations with respect to shore and beach management/ protection, and has received wide support from coastal communities on O'ahu, as well as from other state, federal and county agencies.

In February 1998, the State of Hawai'i filed a condemnation complaint and deposited \$7.75 million in state funds and \$3.85 million in federal ISTEAF funds to acquire 315 acres of Queen's Beach on the East Honolulu Ka Iwi shoreline from Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate.

During the biennium, Land Division's Engineering Branch undertook several significant projects. In 1997, the Engineering branch developed the State's Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan was formally adopted by the Land Board and subsequently approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This acceptance now allows the state to apply for federal flood mitigation funds promoting safe development in flood plains.

In 1997, the Engineering Branch also began work with the City and County of Honolulu, State Department of Transportation and Federal Highways Administration on an environmental assessment for the dredging of Ala Wai Canal to remove sediment accumulation and to improve hydraulic capacity and water clarity. DLNR will be responsible for the design and construction of the dredging work upon completion of the assessment.

In 1998, the Engineering Branch began work on the federal Flood Mitigation Assistance program to obtain project funds to promote safe development, retrofitting and flood-proofing of structures in flood plains. The branch was successful in obtaining \$225,000 in Federal funds and \$75,000 in matching state funds for the Waimānalo Valley Drainage Master Plan. In the same year, the Engineering Branch also:

- Executed a \$4.5 million inter-governmental agreement with the Honolulu Board of Water Supply to obtain water allocation credits for O'ahu projects by the Department of Transportation, Department of Education, Hawai'i Community Development Authority, Housing Finance Development

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Corporation and DLNR. This purchase of water credits will allow projects by these agencies to proceed.

- Initiated a maintenance crew for the operations and maintenance of the Kawai Nui Marsh Flood Control Facility due to the transfer of the 830-acre marsh from the City & County of Honolulu, to the State.
- Began work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop an educational video, "Kona Floodways: History, Geology, Planning and Protection" to promote flood awareness.
- Entered an intergovernmental agreement with the Kaua'i Department of Water for joint development of the Hanapēpē Well to provide a new water source for the area's water system.

The following are program descriptions and accomplishments for FYs 1996-97 and 1997-98:

LAND MANAGEMENT

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The primary objective of the Land Management Branch is to assure the effective and efficient use of public lands for public and private purposes,

in ways that will promote the social, environmental and economic well-being of Hawai'i's people, and fulfill the public land trust obligations.

This is achieved by developing lands according to established guidelines and policies; selling and leasing lands; issuing revocable permits and executive orders; conducting land maintenance activities; and assuring the availability of lands needed for public purposes.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FY 1996-97.

- Issued 13 revocable permits and 52 general leases statewide.
- Made 6 cancellations and withdrawals of set asides to governmental agencies.
- Made 9 set asides to government agencies for public purposes, including:
 - ♦ Set aside 10 acres to the Department of Education for Waikele Elementary School and park.
 - ♦ Set aside 5 acres to the State Parks Division for Wailua River State Park.
 - ♦ Set aside 737 acres to the Department of Agriculture for Moloka'i Agricultural Park.
- Collaborated with the Ka'ena Point Task Force to transform the

Mokuleia-Ka'ena Point Coastal Reserve from a dumping ground, into a popular natural area reserve visited daily by fishermen and tourists. Protective rock barriers were installed to prevent entry of four-wheel drive vehicles, and to protect sand dune reserves and water retention reserves. Repairs were made to 1,500 feet of the access road. An entrance gate and entrance rock barriers were installed, as well as a visitor parking area. A sediment basin was constructed to restrict the flow of soil into the ocean during heavy rains.

- Completed Final Environmental Assessment for, and executed land exchange with Campbell Estate to relocate the University of Hawai'i's West O'ahu campus to the foothills of Makakilo.
- Land Division staff, the County of Kaua'i and Navy SEABEES collaborated in the replacement of the Moloka'a Bridge, which had collapsed under the weight of a fully loaded liquid propane tanker truck on June 2, 1997. Working through the bureaucratic maze was not time-sensitive since it was necessary to provide access to residential homes that now did not have it.



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The interaction and cooperation between the three agencies enabled the bridge to be replaced at minimum cost.

- Acquired an access road to Hale O Lono Harbor on Moloka'i to allow public access to the harbor. While County subdivision approval is pending, in the interim, Land Division was able to work out an agreement with the Moloka'i Ranch in which the dirt roadway was paved and opened for public use in March 1997.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FY 1997-98.

- Issued 11 revocable permits and 10 general leases statewide.
- Made 11 cancellations and withdrawals of set asides to governmental agencies.
- Made 20 set asides to government agencies for public purposes, including:
 - ◆ Set aside 5 acres to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism for the Hilo Foreign Trade Zone.
 - ◆ Set aside 15 acres to the Department of Education for the Mililani Mauka Intermediate School.
 - ◆ Set aside 1.5 acres to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs for Hawaiian

cultural and educational purposes.

- ◆ Set aside 22 acres to the County of Maui for addition to Kanahā Beach Park and roadway parcel.
- ◆ Conveyed university lands to the University of Hawai'i in order to provide the educational institution with additional autonomy to own and manage lands. Land Board approval was received in December 1997 and April 1998 for 24 sites statewide.
- ◆ Sold the Mabel Smyth auditorium facility for \$5 million in June 1998. The Mabel Smyth facility was originally intended to provide sufficient auditorium space during renovations to the State Capitol. Due to the completion of these renovations and the renewed availability of the Capitol auditorium space, the Mabel Smyth facility was underutilized.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT PLANNING

The Planning and Technical Services Branch administers all conservation district land use activities in the State. The conservation district consists of over two million acres, almost one-half of the total land area of the State of Hawai'i. The conservation district rules make

define allowable uses for these lands. To best protect these precious lands, all proposed development must be reviewed and approved through a Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) process. Only with a CDUA can landowners develop the land within the guidelines set by law.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FY 1996-97.

- Processed 50 Conservation District Use Permits.
- Processed 25 Site Plan approvals.
- Processed 20 time extensions.
- In conjunction with the Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement, processed 25 enforcement cases through Hearing Officer/Administrative Penalty System (HOAPS).
- Worked with Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate (KS/BE), Gentry, the Board of Water Supply, hiking clubs and community members to develop an agreement with these parties to allow public access, and parking for access to Wiliwilinui Trail in East Honolulu.
- Resolved significant land use issues on the island of Moloka'i with respect to the provision of public shoreline access; public



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access, with trails and signs, has been provided to the West Moloka'i shoreline in the area of Kaupoa House and along the South Shore at Palau'u by Moloka'i Ranch. Vehicular access has been provided to the southeast shore of Moloka'i at Hale O Lono Harbor. Public shoreline access was required by the Land Board pursuant to a 1988 application for a subdivision of Moloka'i Ranch land.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FY 1997-98.

- Completed Draft Environmental Assessment for Kawai Nui Marsh.
- Continued Conservation District Review Project - Completed draft discussion document for the Conservation District Management Plan. The purpose of this plan is to develop new objectives and criteria for the evaluation of projects in the Conservation District Subzones.
- Began development of a comprehensive plan to bring 180 illegal pierers in Kāne'ohe Bay into conformance with land use laws.
- Developed a Geographic Information System (GIS) for data pertaining to lands in the Conservation District.

- Developed an inception report to conduct a site study analysis for the development of a beach restoration project to fulfill contract requirements with the Coastal Zone Management Program for the development of a Shoreline Hazard Mitigation Project.
- Completed Flood Mitigation Application for the Waimānalo Flood Control Study, O'ahu and the Halama Street Beach Nourishment/Restoration Project, Maui.

ENGINEERING BRANCH

The Engineering Branch administers program areas which benefit the well-being of residents and visitors. It promotes economic development and public welfare by developing water supplies, which in turn, support the projects of other state agencies. This program also promotes partnerships and cost-sharing in the development of water projects to meet the goals of otherwise competing agencies. The Prevention of Natural Disasters Program (which consists of the Flood Control and Prevention Program, and the Dam Safety Program) works to minimize the loss of lives and property dam-

age through the management of flood hazard areas, and regulation of dams and reservoirs. The branch also provides engineering services to other divisions of the department.

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION.

This program investigates and develops traditional and alternative sources to provide water for state-sponsored projects.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FY 1996-97.

- Continued implementation and execution of 18 water projects totaling \$19.3 million.
- Completed one well drilling project.
- Continued construction of one well development project.
- Obtained water system allocations for 13 projects by various state agencies.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FY 1997-98.

- Continued the execution of 18 water projects totaling \$19.3 million.
- Completed construction of one well development project.

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- Obtained water system allocations for 10 projects by various state agencies.

ENGINEERING SERVICES PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION.

This program provides planning, design and construction management services to other divisions and offices within the department, and to other state agencies.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FY 1996-97.

- Completed construction of 16 projects totaling \$4.6 million.
- Continued construction of 9 projects totaling \$5.9 million.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FY 1997-98.

- Completed construction of 12 projects totaling \$4.82 million.
- Advertised 20 projects for bids totaling \$10.38 million.

FLOOD CONTROL AND PREVENTION PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

As part of the state's flood control program, the branch administers

control and prevention activities to prevent the loss of life and to protect property. State, federal, or county agencies and private entities work to reduce flood losses by regulating land use through land treatment measures, and installing flood control systems.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FY 1996-97.

- Conducted community assessment visits to the four counties.
- Provided information and technical assistance in response to flood complaints and information requests.
- Responded and assisted with stream maintenance activities in state-owned streams.

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DAM SAFETY PROGRAM

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program administers the inspection and regulation of construction, operation and removal of certain dams in the state.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FY 1996-97.

- Continued with the National Dam Inventory update.
- Reviewed and processed four Dam Safety applications.
- Contracted safety inspections for 10 dams statewide.
- Represented the state at the ASDSO National Dam Safety Conference.

PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FY 1997-98.

- Continued with the National Dam Inventory update.
- Reviewed and processed two Dam Safety applications.
- Contracted safety inspections for eight dams statewide.
- Represented the state at the ASDSO National Dam Safety Conference.

